

THE BIRTH AND EVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

PART 3: The American Revolution

- I. Introduction
 - A. Against Whom? The Issue is Settled
- II. A Matter of Interpretation
 - A. The Concept of Historical Relativism
 - B. Examples of Different Interpretations
 - i. The Progressive Interpretation
 - ii. The Cold War Interpretation
- III. Some Inconvenient Questions
 - A. Questioning Authority in the Age of Freud and Einstein
 - B. The Multidimensionality of Human Behavior
- IV. An Economic Explanation
 - A. Sugar: British v. American Entrepreneurs
 - B. Southern Grievances & the Proclamation Line
 - C. Question of British Need for Revenue?
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 - A. Boston "Massacre" a brief Description
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- VI. A Social/Psychological Explanation for the American Revolution
 - A. Social Crisis in the Colonies
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 - C. Influence of Seaboard Cities & destabilization
 - D. Inland Towns and the Transitional Zones: The Threat
 - E. Role of Religion
- Vii. The Non-English Presence
- VIII. Revolution of Rising Expectations
- IX. The Colonies on the Eve of the War
 - A. Conflicting Choices
 - B. The Question of the War's Purpose
 - C. An End to the Question of Purpose: British Behavior and American Propaganda
 - D. On to the Declaration of Independence

Recommended Reading:

David McCullough, 1776

Richard Bushman, King and People in Colonial Massachusetts

Gary Nash, The Urban Crucible; the Northern Seaports and the Origins of the American Revolution

T.H. Breen, The Marketplace of Revolution

Bernard Bailyn, The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution